

Atomic Units:

$$\hbar = 1 \quad (1)$$

Definitions:

$$\langle N\vec{v}^2 \rangle_{\sigma}(E) \equiv \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_n \int_{BZ} d^3k \delta(E - E_{\vec{k},j,n}) \vec{v}_{\vec{k},j,n}^2 \quad (2)$$

$$\langle N \rangle_{\sigma}(E) \equiv \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_n \int_{BZ} d^3k \delta(E - E_{\vec{k},j,n}) \quad (3)$$

$$\gamma_{\sigma}(E) \equiv \frac{\langle N\vec{v}^2 \rangle_{\sigma}(E)}{\langle N \rangle_{\sigma}(E)} \quad (4)$$

$$\vec{v}_{\vec{k},j,\sigma} \equiv \frac{\partial E_{\vec{k},j,\sigma}}{\partial \vec{k}} \quad (5)$$

Dirac Delta Function Properties:

$$\delta(af(x)) = \frac{1}{|a|} \delta(f(x)) = \frac{1}{|a||f'(x)|} \delta(x) \quad (6)$$

$$\delta(x^2 - a^2) = \frac{1}{2|a|} [\delta(x - a) + \delta(x + a)] \quad (7)$$

Electron gas:

$$E_{F,\sigma} = \frac{k_{F,\sigma}^2}{2} \quad v_k = k \quad (8)$$

Numerator, denominator and ratio for the electron gas at the Fermi level (one band):

$$\langle N\vec{v}^2 \rangle_{\sigma}(E_F) \equiv \frac{4\pi}{(2\pi)^3} \int_0^{\infty} dk k^2 \delta\left(\frac{k_F^2}{2} - \frac{k^2}{2}\right) k^2 = \frac{k_F^3}{2\pi^2} \quad (9)$$

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$$\gamma_{\sigma}(E_F) \equiv \frac{\langle N\vec{v}^2 \rangle_{\sigma}(E_F)}{\langle N \rangle_{\sigma}(E_F)} = k_F^2 = v_F^2 = 2E_F \quad (11)$$

The result of Eqtns. (9)-(11) suggests the definition:

$$v_{F,\sigma} = \sqrt{\gamma_{\sigma}(E_F)} \quad (12)$$

Another equally plausible definition would be:

$$v_{F,\sigma} \equiv \frac{\langle N|\vec{v}| \rangle_{\sigma}(E_F)}{\langle N \rangle_{\sigma}(E_F)} \quad (13)$$

with

$$\langle N|\vec{v}| \rangle_{\sigma}(E) \equiv \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_n \int_{BZ} d^3k \delta(E - E_{\vec{k},j,n}) |\vec{v}_{\vec{k},j,n}| \quad (14)$$

Averaging Eqtn. (8.51) of Aschcroft & Mermin over the Fermi surface suggests Eqtn. (12). Explicitly this average is (no electron gas approximation here):

$$\frac{1}{S} \int dS |\vec{v}(\vec{k}_F)| = \frac{(2\pi)^3}{S} \langle N\vec{v}^2 \rangle(E_F) \quad (15)$$

And the following can be derived (for the electron gas):

$$\frac{(2\pi)^3}{S} = \frac{(2\pi)^3}{4\pi k_F^2} = \frac{2\pi^2}{k_F^2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(\langle N \rangle(E_F) \langle N\vec{v}^2 \rangle(E_F))}} \quad (16)$$

Therefore, we see that Eqtn. (14) is the same as the definition adopted in Eqtn. (11). If we can prove Eqtn. (15) in general then I think it is a done deal. Essentially the equality to prove is

$$\langle N|\vec{v}|\rangle(E_F) = \frac{S}{(2\pi)^3} \quad ? = ? \quad \sqrt{\left(\langle N\rangle(E_F)\langle N\vec{v}^2\rangle(E_F)\right)} \quad (17).$$

Let me know when you have proved it! ;)